

Resolutions agreed at CND Conference 2006

The following resolutions, including any amendments, were agreed at CND Conference 2006:

1. Campaigning against Trident and its replacement

Conference notes:

1. The announcements of Prime Minister Tony Blair and Chancellor Gordon Brown, supporting the replacement of Trident, pre-empting a parliamentary debate; that a decision will be taken within this year, restricting the possibility of a full, public debate.
2. The Greenpeace poll showing 54 per cent opposing replacement of Trident when aware of the estimated £25bn cost.
3. Opposition to Trident replacement from parliament, a range of trade unions including UNISON, TGWU and CWU, and the National Union of Students Executive Committee.
4. The CND-commissioned ICM poll showing 81 per cent supporting a decision on Trident being made by parliament, not the Prime Minister alone.
5. The significant work undertaken by CND during the year in opposing Trident replacement.
6. The Prime Minister has clarified that the Labour Party manifesto for the 2005 general election contained a commitment to retaining the nuclear deterrent for 'the life of the current system', but did not contain a commitment to replacing the system.

Conference further notes:

1. The replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system is the foremost challenge facing the British peace movement at this time.
2. That our Government should become a force of peace in the world, working with others in respecting international law, promoting peace, security and sustainable development.
3. Replacing Trident, far from making Britain more secure, will increase the likelihood of a nuclear arms race and the threat of nuclear weapons being used in war.
4. Replacing Trident would conflict with the government's disarmament commitments under the NPT.
5. The costs of replacing Trident - estimated at tens of billions of pounds - could be better used to advance the causes of peace and justice, assisting the developing world or improving public services.
6. Reports suggest that the government is preparing to develop new nuclear warheads at Aldermaston AWE.
7. The Government has made the replacement of Trident an urgent issue requiring a decision this year, but has not given any reason why this has suddenly become an urgent issue.

Conference resolves to:

1. Redouble our efforts to raise public opposition to Trident replacement, and that this continues to be the principal focus of our campaigning.
2. Continue to build the broadest alliance possible of MPs, trade unionists, students and young people, faith communities etc, to put maximum pressure on government.
3. To continue to oppose the existing Trident system and its refit process, through public and parliamentary campaigning, including the support of protests and direct action at Faslane, Aldermaston, Devonport and other related facilities.

2. Promoting multi-ethnicity campaigning

Conference notes:

1. The predominantly white-British character of its membership locally and nationally
2. The importance of campaigning within the large ethnic minority populations and with their appropriate organisations in our cities on issues of common concern
3. The crucial position of the South Asian region, with which many in Britain have enduring ties, in global nuclear politics
4. The contradictions between the paths of sustainable and peaceful social development in China, India and Pakistan and the threatened expenditure on nuclear and other armaments due, in large part, to US interventions

Conference recommends that CND follows up recent initiatives by Leicester CND, the Indian Workers Association (GB) and national CND by:

1. Promoting similar events in other multi-ethnic cities in Britain
2. Researching and providing briefings on the relevance of S Asian issues to anti-nuclear campaigning in Britain
3. Seeking more enduring alliances at national, regional and local levels with appropriate organisations with a strong ethnic-minority base.

3. Winning the Unions

Conference expresses its particular satisfaction with the progress made in winning major unions to affiliate to CND and congratulates all those concerned. Conference recommends that regions and groups follow up on this by making links with local branches of affiliated unions.

4. USA's use of space weaponry

Conference recognises:

The increasing dependence of the US military on space based components for the preparation and management of war fighting;

That during the war on Iraq over 70% of the bombs and missiles used by the US and UK were directed to targets by satellite GPS systems;

That, although there may be no weapons as such stationed in space, weapons systems components, such as identification and targeting, are already in place;

That the US military is pursuing a counterspace policy as part of the war against terrorism that includes the development and future deployment of space based weapons including ant-satellite (ASAT) systems;

That the US push for missile defence is part of this ongoing strategy to position weapons in space;

That these developments are leading to an international arms race in outer space;

That bases in the UK such as Menwith Hill and Fylingdales are intimately involved in US plans to maintain their military superiority in space.

Therefore Conference calls on CND to:

Continue to campaign on these issues as a matter of high priority;

Continue to support the work of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space by renewing its membership and in particular actively participate in the annual "Keep Space for Peace" actions;

Continue to campaign for more discussion in the media and among politicians etc on the issue of the militarization and weaponisation of space;

Press the UK government to become more central to prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS) initiatives;

Support the protests and demonstrations at bases in the UK associated with the dangerous plans of the US military.

5. The UN Charter

The United Nations Charter begins with the words "After two world wars which have twice in a lifetime brought untold sorrow to mankind ..." It pledged "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war." Now we are on the cycle of violence once again.

No longer are we genuinely seeking to save independent nations from occupation but are actively taking part in similar illegal military aggression. No UN Security Council resolution was found to permit invasion of Iraq, nor was Afghanistan named in the calling for action after 9/11.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament pledges itself to oppose such wars. We demand a return to the observance of international law enshrined in the UN Charter and the Geneva Convention.

6. No to nuclear hypocrisy – don't attack Iran

CND Conference notes:

1. The US-led invasions and occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq have resulted in the deaths of over 100,000 people, worsened instability in the Middle East region and increased the threat of terrorism.
2. An acceleration in the development of nuclear weapons by the US and Britain - with the probable replacement of Trident - and the adoption by these governments of aggressive nuclear use policies.
3. The on-going aggressive rhetoric against Iran by the US administration and the reported possibility of military attacks by the US or Israel, and that such attacks could involve the use of nuclear weapons.
4. That justifications for action against Iran, based on allegations of a nuclear weapons programme, echo the bogus allegations used to justify the invasion of Iraq.

5. Under the NPT, Iran is entitled to develop nuclear power for peaceful purposes. The International Atomic Energy Authority inspections have, as yet, found no evidence of diversion from peaceful use to weapons use.

6. A military attack on Iran would create a humanitarian disaster, unleash a long-lasting military confrontation throughout the Middle East, and increase the likelihood of Iran withdrawing from the NPT and IAEA inspections.

CND further notes:

1. The hypocrisy of the US and Britain in escalating tensions with Iran, whilst failing to meet their own disarmament obligations under the NPT.
2. Israel, the only nuclear weapons state in the Middle East, continues its policy of non-compliance with the UN. The recent US-India nuclear agreement has been rightly criticised for encouraging nuclear proliferation by both the US Congress and former President Carter.
3. This selective approach to nuclear compliance only serves to fuel fears that the US is constructing a false case against Iran in order to bring about regime change and control Iran's energy resources.
4. The actions of the US administration, actively supported by the British government, are making the world more dangerous: driving a new nuclear arms race, in which nuclear weapons might be used in further wars.

CND resolves to:

1. Continue to work with others to build the broadest alliance possible against a military attack on Iran.
2. Continue the crucial campaigning to expose the nuclear hypocrisy of the nuclear weapons states, for a nuclear-free Middle East, and for global nuclear disarmament.
3. Campaign against nuclear hypocrisy and against an attack on Iran to complement the 'No Trident Replacement' campaign.

7. Israeli nuclear weapons

Considering the escalating violence in the Middle East, Given the actual danger of Israel's stockpile of at least 200 nuclear weapons, Bearing in mind press and government silence on the issue of Israel's nuclear weapons,

This conference calls on CND to:

- organise a public meeting, preferably in London, to publicise this issue.
- produce a leaflet to inform the general public about Israeli nuclear weapons.
- keep the issue in the public eye through our own publications and articles in the national press.

8. Nuclear power no solution to climate change

CND conference notes:

1. Climate change - caused by growing emissions of carbon dioxide from burning coal, oil and gas - is one of the biggest problems facing humanity.
2. The pro-nuclear lobby is cynically using this world-threatening problem to justify the need for new nuclear power plants.
3. Prime Minister Tony Blair's statement in May, pre-empting the government's energy review, that nuclear power was 'back with a vengeance', in order to guarantee energy supplies and tackle climate change.

4. The recommendation of the Government's energy review, published 11 July that, new nuclear power stations 'would make a significant contribution to meeting our energy policy goals' as part of package including initiatives for energy use reduction and renewable forms of energy.

CND conference further notes:

6. CND's briefing 'Not worth the risk' which outlines the key arguments against nuclear power: that it is dangerous, uneconomical and will not solve the problem of climate change.

7. Twenty years after the Chernobyl disaster, sheep in North Wales are still officially declared unfit for human consumption. There is still no safe solution to storing radioactive waste, and building new stations would increase the toxic waste five-fold. In July the Nuclear Safety Directorate issued warnings over cracked nuclear reactor cores and criticised failings of British Energy.

8. Electricity supplied by nuclear power contributes only a fifth of the total power generation in Britain and accounts for a third of carbon emissions, whilst transport and industry account for the majority of emissions. Doubling nuclear power production would only reduce CO₂ emissions by 8%. Nuclear power is not carbon-free: the whole nuclear cycle produces up to 50% more CO₂ emissions than wind power.

9. The enormous cost of the nuclear power industry - £70bn alone is needed to decommission existing power stations - will divert necessary investment away from renewables and severely curtail the viability of such energy sources.

Conference resolves to:

1. Continue to work with all those opposing nuclear power.
2. Continue to build alliances with the green movement on sustainable energy alternatives.
3. Continue to support the Chernobyl Children's Project and the Nuclear Trains Action Group.

9. Links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons

Conference notes that:

1) The Government is now firmly committed to a new generation of nuclear power stations, despite the 2003 Energy Review which considered nuclear power "an unattractive option".

2) There is an urgent need for a vigorous and well-informed opposition to this position.

3) New nuclear generation is a dangerous risk to sustainable economic development and public wellbeing. Its pursuit remains cover for military applications opposing CND's aim to convert resources to real security.

4) CND's special and essential contribution to the debate is to explain and highlight the links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons: the production of plutonium in nuclear reactors and the problems of storing it securely; the close technical relationship between low and high enrichment of uranium; the limits imposed by the Non-Proliferation Treaty (Article IV) and the remit of the International Atomic Energy Authority; and the links between the nuclear power and nuclear weapons industries.

5) The implications of CND's Strategic Objective 4 (The Closure of the Nuclear Power Industry) are not sufficiently understood or supported by all of the membership.

Conference resolves that:

- 1) CND nationally and locally should give high priority to emphasising the links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons proliferation as an essential part of the growing campaign against new nuclear building;
- 2) a short layman's guide explaining the nature of these links would be extremely useful in the campaign and should be produced by national office;
- 3) CND will support campaign initiatives showing how nuclear power and nuclear weapons are linked, including scrutiny of pension funds investment portfolios, local canvassing of members' M.P.s and working in alliance with other groups opposing new nuclear build;
- 4) CND will continue to support demonstrations and meetings at sites actively involved in nuclear industrial and military work.

10. DPRK nuclear test

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament strongly condemns the DPRK's recent underground test of a nuclear weapon and calls on it to rejoin the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapons state.

CND notes that the failure of the nuclear weapons states to disarm, as required by the NPT, will continue to contribute to nuclear proliferation.

CND also notes the view of Kofi Annan, in a speech at the United Nations Association in London in January 2006, "The more those States that already have (nuclear weapons) increase their arsenals, or insist that such weapons are essential to their national security, the more other States feel that they too must have them, for their security."

CND also calls on:

- all nuclear weapons states, declared and undeclared, to break out of the dangerous spiral of nuclear proliferation and begin negotiations towards disarmament as required by the NPT.
- all states to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty as a matter of urgency.
- the British government to convene a World Summit on nuclear disarmament as proposed by Hans Blix in the recent WMD Commission report, instead of exacerbating global tensions and proliferation through replacing Trident.